

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities comprising:
 - receiving identifying information on a customer from an electronic storage facility;
 - determining whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;
 - assigning an identifier based on a result of the determination; and
 - cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the received identifying information.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - retrieving identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility transmitting identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining comprises:
 - standardizing the received identifying information; and

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FOOTNOTES

comparing the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein cross-referencing comprises:

creating a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying information.

7. A computer for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities, the computer comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor, responsive to the programming instructions, configured to:

receive identifying information on a customer from an electronic storage facility;

determine whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;

assign an identifier based on a result of the determination;

cross-reference the assigned identifier with the received identifying information.

8. The computer of claim 7, wherein the processor is further configured to:

retrieve identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier.

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9. The computer of claim 7, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility transmitting identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.

10. The computer of claim 9, wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address.

11. The computer of claim 1, wherein determine comprises:
standardize the received identifying information; and
compare the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store.

12. The computer of claim 1, wherein cross-reference comprises:
create a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying information.

13. A system for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities, the system comprising:

means for receiving identifying information on a customer from an electronic storage facility;

means for determining whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;

means for assigning an identifier based on a result of the determination;

means for cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the received identifying information.

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14. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

means for retrieving identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility transmitting identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein means for determining comprises:
means for standardizing the received identifying information; and
means for comparing the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein means for cross-referencing comprises:

means for creating a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying information.

